

6. NOTE UPON THE ABNORMALITY OF A TAIL-FEATHER IN A MALE SÆMMERING'S PHEASANT. BY JAMES MURIE, M.D., PROSECTOR TO THE SOCIETY.

An adult male Sæmmering's Pheasant (*Phasianus sæmmeringii*, Temm.) which died and was examined by me on the 29th of November last, presented the following irregularity:—

The middle and longest tail-feather of the bird was completely turned upside down. The groove of the shaft was uppermost; the outer edge of the vane of the feather and the down at the base of the shaft were curled upwards. The brilliant colour of the reversed upper side was in no way affected by its unusual position or partial want of light. At the posterior third of the feather there commenced to be a twist, which as it reached the pointed extremity, was seen to have made a half turn of a circle, bringing what was the uppermost side at the root of the feather to be the undermost at the tip; in other words, the feather at its posterior third seemed to endeavour to right itself to its normal condition. At the root it was firmly attached to the skin, proving it not to have been the result of mere accident.

On first consideration it may be supposed that this feather had grown from the first in an inverted manner, but the spiral form, I am inclined to believe, demonstrates that when young it must have shot forth in the normal manner, and that the turn took place subsequently during the process of growth.

The feathers of birds, I understand, are occasionally found somewhat twisted at the base of the wing; and the Friesland Fowl is remarkable for the frizzly appearance of its plumage. But several gentlemen, who have had much practical experience with birds, tell me they have never met with a case wherein tail-feathers were so placed as I have related, for which reason I have thought it worthy of being mentioned.

7. ON TWO NEW SPECIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN SAXICOLÆ.  
BY DR. G. HARTLAUB, FOR. MEMB. ZOOL. SOC.

In a small collection of birds from different parts of the Cape Colony recently submitted to my examination by Mr. E. L. Layard I find two apparently new species, which I describe as follows:—

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search after truth, I conclude by pointing out that my more detailed comparison of the skull of *Presbytes albigena* with the true Indian *Semnopithecii* endorses the opinion of Dr. Pucheran and the correctness of the present name attached to the cranium in the National Collection.

With regard to the complicated stomach of the genus *Colobus*, I have further to add the testimony of Mr. Flower, that the *C. vellerosus* dissected by him, besides those examined by Professor Owen and the *C. guereza* described in this paper, all point to the certainty of this feature being common to the genus; and therefore, besides the analogy of the cranial character, this undoubtedly marks the *Colobi* and *Semnopithecii* as being but individual members of one group.

## 1. SAXICOLA CASTOR, ♂.

*Major; cinerea, remigibus fuscis; corpore subltus vix pallidiore; reatricibus caudæ superioribus albis; reatricibus 4 intermediis fusco-nigris, ternis lateralibus albis, apice late fusco-nigris, quarta nigricante, basi alba; rostro et pedibus nigris.*

Long. circa 7", rostr. 7", al. 4", caud. 2" 10", tars. 13½".

*Hab.* Karroo; Afr. mer. (*Layard*).

## 2. SAXICOLA POLLUX, ♂.

*Minor; cinerea, gutture pectoreque pallidioribus; abdomine imo, crisso et subcaudalibus albis; remigibus fuscis, primo apice conspicue emarginato-attenuato; reatricibus 4 mediis fusco-nigris, ternis lateralibus pogonio externo albis, interno fuscis, extima apice tota fusca, quarta apice latius fusca; rostro et pedibus nigris.*

Long. 6⅓", rostr. 6", al. 4" 1", caud. 2" 10", tars. 14".

*Hab.* Karroo (*Layard*).

*Obs.* Primo aspectu simillima præcedenti, sed minor, cauda alis et tarsis pro mole longioribus, subcaudalibus albis; reatricum coloribus alio modo dispositis.

8. ON THE GULAR POUCH OF THE GREAT BUSTARD (*OTIS TARDA*, LINN.). BY W. H. FLOWER, F.R.S., ETC.

In 'The Ibis' for 1862 (p. 107) Mr. Alfred Newton gave an exhaustive summary of the literature of the much-vexed question of the presence or absence of the "gular pouch" in the male Bustard, together with an account of a dissection performed by several competent persons (the author included), in which no trace of this remarkable organ was found. Stimulated to the research by Mr. Newton's remarks, Dr. W. H. Cullen of Kustendjie, in Bulgaria, took advantage of the frequent occurrence of the bird in his neighbourhood to renew the investigation, and found in each of the two specimens which he dissected a distinct and largely developed pouch. A description and figures of these were communicated to 'The Ibis' (April 1865, p. 143). The identical specimens having, through Dr. Cullen's kindness, been sent to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, I have now the pleasure of exhibiting them to the Members of the Society, and of making a few observations upon their form and structure, confirmatory of, and supplemental to, those of Dr. Cullen.

Of the specimens received, the one consists of the lower mandible, the tongue, the hyoid apparatus, the upper portion (about 2 inches) of the œsophagus and trachea, and the gular pouch dissected away from all its attachments, except at its neck; the second is the pouch alone cut off through the neck; and this being therefore of comparatively little interest, I shall chiefly confine my observations to the first.

In the mesial line of the floor of the mouth, immediately under the root of the tongue, is a distinct and unquestionably natural opening. In what appears to be the usual contracted condition of